

Canadians join the fight against drugs

The Coalition drive extends into Canada, where the following telegram was sent to Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the United Nations:

We, the undersigned strongly object to the planned "relaxation of marijuana laws" announced on Dec. 27, 1978 by the Canadian government.

We further call for a United Nations investigation into the role of Canadian and British banking and government circles in world drug running.

Rakhra Karnail-Saromni Akalidal, Sikh

Ken Shoemith, Principal, Hamilton Central Public School

H. Condie, Principal, Lakeview Secondary School, Toronto

Alf Matthews, Canadian National Education Director for Elevator Construction Workers Union

Ken Perry, Ex-Treasurer, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, local 1788

Eamon O'Donnell, Steward, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1788

Kevin Floyd, Ex-Steward, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 419

Dave Laughlin, Steward, IBT 938

Herman Wever, Hamilton Labor Council

Dave Redman, Ex-Steward, CUPE #1

John Dehart, Regional Counselor, Oshawa

Brian Ring, President Ebastec Cavallin (nuclear engineering consulting firm)

Michael McNamee, Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics, York University

Lionel Ellis, Professor of English, Ryerson Polytechnic Institute.

(affiliations for identification only)

in the U.S., including Dr. Roy Hart, and Dr. Doris Milman, who have both published extensively in the literature.

The federal role

The Drug Enforcement Agency testified at the above-mentioned hearing brought by NORML in Pennsylvania. With reference to the motion for rescheduling by the state, the spokesman said: "There is presently no advantage to rescheduling marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II." When questioned about the possibility of the federal government rescheduling marijuana, he said flatly, "At the present time there is not enough medical evidence for marijuana to be reclassified at the federal level."

There are now a total of 28 active licenses (IND's) for marijuana experimentation in this country, 16 for

anti-emetic tests, five for glaucoma, and the rest for other conditions such as anorexia nervosa (extreme loss of appetite due to a psychological condition) and multiple sclerosis. Given the paltry evidence for the usefulness of marijuana and its known harmful effects, this represents more than enough effort in this dubious area.

The federal government has been rightfully empowered to protect the population against quack treatment and especially against *harmful* quack treatments. There is now grossly insufficient information that marijuana is a useful addition to the pharmaceutical shelf; but the evidence

If NORML, which is backed by tens of thousands of dollars annually from both *Playboy* and *High Times* magazines, is looking for an excuse to push the drug culture on our youth, they will not find it here.